

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1811

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

/AMEMBASSY LONDON 3782

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BISSAU

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

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AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PFOR, PO, XJ

SUBJ: LISBON ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE

REF: LISBON 4680 (DTG 161740Z JUN 77)

SUMMARY: ELEVEN SPEECHES FILLED THE JUNE 16 OPENING DAY AGENDA OF THE LISBON WORLD ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE. KEY-NOTE SPEAKERS WERE SOUTH AFRICA'S ANC LEADER OLIVER TEMBO AND ZIMBABWE PATRIOTIC FRONT CO-LEADERS ROBERT MUGABE AND JOSHUA NKOMO. A SENTENCE FROM MUGABE'S SPEECH CONVEYS THE THEME OF MOST AFRICAN SPEAKERS: "ONLY THROUGH WAR WILL PEACE BE OBTAINED." SPEECHES WERE HEAVILY LACED WITH CRITICISM OF "REFORMIST MEASURES" AND APPEALED FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, PREFERABLY WEAPONS. END SUMMARY.

1. FIRST DAY: THE WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST APARTHEID, RACISM, AND COLONIALISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA HELD THE FIRST OF FOUR DAYS OF MEETINGS JUNE 16. ELEVEN SPEAKERS DOMINATED THE OPENING DAY ACTIVITIES. KEYNOTE SPEAKERS OLIVER TEMBO (ANC), JOSHUA KNOMO, AND ROBERT MUGABE (LATTER TWO OF THE ZIMBABWE PATRIOTIC FRONT, MUGABE IN SUBSTITUTION OF NO-SHOW SAM NUJOMA OF SWAPO) SHARED THE SPOTLIGHT. MESSAGES WERE RECEIVED FROM 25 HEADS OF STATE, AS WELL AS FROM UNITED NATIONS SEC GEN KURT WALDHEIM AND PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION HEAD YASSER ARAFAT. CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS HAVE NOT YET RELEASED A LIST OF PARTICIPANTS, BUT ARE CLAIMING OVER 160 DELEGATES FROM 74 NATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS.

2. WHO WAS THERE: THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS SAT AT HEAD TABLE DURING THE OPENING SESSION:

-- MAGAT LO, PRESIDENT OF SENEGAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL AND ASSISTANT SEC GEN OF SENEGALESE SOCIALIST PARTY.
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-- JOSE MAGALHAES GODINHO, CONFERENCE PRESIDENT, "OMBUDSMAN" OF PORTUGAL.

-- MANUEL GALVAO TELES, CONFERENCE VICE PRESIDENT, FORMER PORTUGUESE UN AMBASSADOR.

-- ABDULLAH HOURAUI, PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION FOREIGN RELATIONS HEAD.

-- VLADIMIR KUDNIATSEV, MEMBER OF USSR SUPREME SOVIET AND SOVIET COMMITTEE FOR AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY VICE PRESIDENT.

-- AZIZ SHERIF, PRESIDENT OF IRAQUI PEACE COUNCIL.

-- FNU CHIMUKA, MEMBER OF ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

-- VLADIMIR MARTINENKO, UN ANTI-APARTHEID COMMITTEE VICE PRESIDENT.

-- BANERJEE FARAH, UN ASSISTANT SEC GEN FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, REPRESENTING KURT WALDHEIM.

-- ROBERTO ALMEIDA, ANGOLAN VICE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS.

-- YESEJE NYAMU, SWAPO SECOND SECRETARY FOR

INFORMATION.

-- RAMESH CHANDRA, WORLD PEACE COUNCIL PRESIDENT.
-- OLIVER TAMBO, SOUTH AFRICAN ANC PRESIDENT.
-- VASOS LYSSERIDES, WORLD ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE
SECGEN AND SEC GEN OF CYPRUS SOCIALIST PARTY.
-- SILAS CERQUEIRA, WORLD ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, PORTUGUESE LAWYER.
-- NOURI ABDULRAZZAK, ORGANIZATION OF SOLIDARITY WITH
AFRO-ASIATIC PEOPLES ASSISTANT SEC GEN.
-- SERGIO VEIRA, FRELIMO CENTRAL COMMITTEE.
-- CHELENE MITCHEL, UNITED STATES NATIONAL COMMITTEE
AGAINST RACISM AND COLONIALISM.

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O R 171753Z JUN 77
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-- FRANK ABDULAH, UN COMMITTEE OF 24.
-- DAMAN TENAZ, GUINE CONAKRY PARLIAMENT PRESIDENT.
-- HANS FRANK, SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

3. WHO SAID WHAT: THE NAMES OF ALL SPEAKERS AS WELL
AS MAIN COMMENTS BY PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS FOLLOW:

(A) JOSE MAGALHAES GODINHO: AS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT
GODINHO MADE THE OPENING REMARKS. HIS SPEECH WAS BY FAR
THE MOST MODERATE OF ALL THE SPEECHES. AFTER A LONG
APOLOGIA FOR PORTUGAL'S HISTORICAL INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA,
WITH EXCEPTION OF SALAZAR/CAETANO PERIOD, GODINHO CLOSED
BY APPEALING THAT "NO NATION LEND ASSISTANCE TO THE ARMED
STRUGGLES" IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, "EITHER IN HUMAN, ECONOMIC,
OR MILITARY TERMS--OR IN ANY OTHER TERMS--SO THAT THE SITUATION
DOES NOT REACH THAT SHARP AND IRREVERSIBLE STAGE WHICH
COMPROMISES PEACE." HE STRESSED THAT THE STRUGGLE SHOULD
NOT BECOME "A COMBAT OVER THE SUPERIORITY OF IDEOLOGIES,
NOR SHOULD IT BECOME TRANSFORMED INTO A HOT OR COLD WAR
BETWEEN THE BLOCKS." THE TRANSITION TO MAJORITY
RULE, HE SAID, SHOULD TAKE PLACE WITHOUT VIOLENCE.

(B) OLIVER TEMBO: THE ANC LEADER SEVERELY ATTACKED
THE US, FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN, GERMANY, CANADA, JAPAN,
AND THE MULTINATIONALS. THE WESTERN NATIONS, HE SAID,
"FOR TACTICAL REASONS ATTACK RACISM FOR ITS DISCRIMINATORY
PRACTICES" AT THE SAME TIME THAT "THEY SUPPORT THE
ECONOMICS OF THE RACIST NATIONS, EXPLOIT THEIR NATURAL
RESOURCES, AND LEND GREAT MILITARY SUPPORT." HE CLASSIFIED
AND CONDEMNED "REFORMIST MEASURES" AS ONLY SEEKING "TO
POSTPONE FINAL VICTORY." THE MORAL JUSTIFICATION ADVANCED
BY SOUTH AFRICA, HE SAID, FOR RACISM AND APARTHEID "WERE
THE THEORIES ADVANCED BY ADOLF HITLER."

(C) JOSHUA NKOMO: ZIMBABWE PATRIOTIC FRONT CO-LEADER
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NOKOMO GAVE THE MOST APPLAUDED, AND AMONG THE HARDEST-LINE, OF THE EVENING'S SPEECHES. HIS INITIAL COMMENTS ATTACKED THE "INSUFFICIENCY" OF THE UN AND OAU DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS. HE CITED THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT COMMON-WEALTH CONFERENCE IN LONDON AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE FAILURE OF NEGOTIATIONS AND A DEMONSTRATION OF THE NEED TO INTENSIFY ARMED STRUGGLE. HE APPEALED OPENLY FOR MORE WEAPONS. COMMENTING ON DIALOGUE POSSIBILITIES HE STATED: "SPEAKING WITH AN IMPERIALIST IS THE SAME AS SPEAKING TO A ROCK." HE ADDED: "ITS NOT THAT WE ARE MORBID OR FIND HAPPINESS IN WAR; BUT DURING MANY YEARS WE TRIED TO SPEAK WITH THE IMPERIALISTS AND SHOW THEM REASON. WE HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT ONLY THROUGH VIOLENCE WILL WE DESTROY THEM."

(C) ROBERT MUGABE: MUCH OF MUBAGE'S SPEECH FOCUSED ON ECONOMIC SITUATION OF SOUTHER AFRICA. ONE OF THE ZIMBABWE PATRIOTIC FRONT CO-LEADER'S COMMENTS SEEMED TO CHARACTERIZE THE THEME RUNNING THROUGH THE SPEECHES OF THE OTHER AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT HEADS: "ONLY THROUGH WAR WILL PEACE BE OBTAINED."

(D) REMAINING SPEAKERS WERE: ABDUL RAZAK, ORGANIZATION OF SOLIDARITY WITH AFRICAN PEOPLES VICE PRESIDENT; ROMESH CHANDRA; ABDULLAH HOURAUI; ROBERTO DE ALMEIDA; VLADIMIR MARTYNENKO, SPECIAL ANTI-APARTHEID COMMITTEE VICE PRESIDENT; SERGIO VIEIRA; AND AZIZ SHERIF.

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4. WALDHEIM MESSAGE: UN SEC GEN KURT WALDHEIM'S MESSAGE, READ BY BANERJEE FARAH, FOCUSED ON SOUTH AFRICA. AFTER REFERENCES TO SOWETO AND SHARPSVILLE, THE MESSAGE TURNED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION TO CONVOKE A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO DESIGN A NEW SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT. HE WROTE, "THAT RECOMMENDATION ... IS AS VALID TODAY AS IT WAS THEN, OFFERING A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE FORMULA FOR A PEACEFUL AND LASTING SOLUTION." AND THE MESSAGE CLOSED: "IF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO FOLLOW ITS CURRENT POLICIES, THEN THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES CONSONANT WITH ITS PRINCIPLES AND THE OBJECTIVES OF ITS DECLARATION."

5. ADDITIONAL MESSAGES: IN ADDITION TO THE MESSAGES BY WALDHEIM AND OLP LEADER ARAFAT, THE HEADS OF STATE OF THE FOLLOWING NATIONS SENT MESSAGES: ANGOLA, GUINEA-BISSAU, MOZAMBIQUE, CAPE VERDE, SAO TOME, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, BOTSWANA, SENEGAL, EGYPT, USSR, EAST GERMANY, ROMANIA, MONGOLIA, LAOS, CYPRUS, SWEDEN, IRAQ, SYRIA, ETHIOPIA, GUINE-CONNAKRY, MALI, GHANA, GAMBIA AND TURKEY.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
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